## REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 14-17 are active in the case.

It is requested that the Examiner acknowledge the claim for foreign priority filed October 7, 2003. The certified copy of the corresponding convention application was submitted to the International Bureau in PCT Application No. PCT/JP99/00835. Receipt of the certified copy by the International Bureau in a timely manner under PCT Rule 17.1(a) has been acknowledged as evidenced by the PCT/IB/304 supplied in the paper filed October 7, 2003.

New Claims 14-17 have been added to preferred embodiments. Basis for the new claims may be found in the claims in the preliminary amendment filed October 7, 2003. In Claim 14 the amount of additive is described as "1-15 weight % of at least one cellulosic compound or microbial polysaccharide." Basis for this limitation may be found on page 16, first full paragraph of the specification. No new matter has been added into the amended claims.

The rejection of Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph is traversed.

The language describing the stoichiometric amounts of nitrate and perchlorate no longer appears in new Claim 14 and the limitations of canceled Claim 2 have been added into new Claim 14. Claim 14 meets the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112.

The rejection of Claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph is traversed.

The language describing the stoichiometric amounts of nitrate and perchlorate no longer appears in new Claim 14 and the limitations of Claim 2 have been added into new Claim 14. Claim 14 meets the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112.

The rejection of Claim 13 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph is traversed. Since Claim 13 has now been canceled, this rejection is moot.

With the addition of new Claims 14-17 it is submitted that the Examiner's requirements in paragraph 6, page 3 of the Official Action have now been met and all claims meet the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112.

The rejection of Claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by Knowlton et al is traversed.

New Claim 14 now recites an extruded gas generant molding which includes an extrusion-molding use binder of at least one cellulosic compound or microbial polysaccharide. Knowlton et al does not disclose an extruded gas generant molding containing the particular extrusion-molding use binder recited in the present claims. Further, the oxidizing agents in the present claims are particular amounts of ammonium perchloride and a nitrate of an alkaline earth metal. Knowlton et al teaches a mixture of ammonium perchlorate and a nitrate of an alkali metal, which is clearly different from the oxidizing agent combination of the present claims. Claims 14-17 are not anticipated by Knowlton et al.

The rejection of Claims 1, 2 and 4-13 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Ito et al is traversed.

Ito et al does not teach or suggest the extrusion-molding use binder of the present claims of 1-15 weight % of at least one cellulosic compound or microbial polysaccharide. None of the binders disclosed at column 11, lines 26-35 of Ito et al '500 give any motivation to the worker of ordinary skill in the art to use the particular extrusion-molding use binder of 1-15 weight % of at least one cellulosic compound or microbial polysaccharide of the present claims. Further, the gas generating agent of Ito et al is press molded in contrast to the extruded gas generant molding of the present claims. (See column 12, lines 18-22 of Ito et al '500). Also, the press formed material of Ito et al may be heat treated at 100-120°C for about 2 to 24 hours after press forming so that resistance to deterioration with age may be obtained.

It is further described in column 12, lines 31 and 32 of Ito et al '500 that heat treatment at less than 100°C is not effective to obtain resistance to deterioration with age. In the present invention on page 34, lines 14-18 of the specification the extruded material of the present claims is heat treated at 50-80°C for about 20 to about 30 hours to produce molded products which are resistant to deterioration with age. Thus, the gas generant of the present claims is extrusion molded and heat treated at much less than 100°C in contrast to the press molding and heat treatment at 100° to 120°C of Ito et al. Claims 14-17 distinguish over Ito et al.

The rejection of Claims 4-13 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Knowlton et al in view of Ito et al is traversed.

Ito et al does not remedy the defects of Knowlton et al, as discussed above in the response to the rejection over Knowlton et al above, and, further, Ito et al is deficient in the limitations of new Claims 14-17, as discussed in the response to the rejection of Claims 1, 2 and 4-13 over Ito et al, alone. Claims 14-17 distinguish over the combination of references.

It is submitted that Claims 14-17 are allowable and such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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